

II. REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-9 are amended to clarify the scope of the invention and to place this application into better condition for examination. The amendments are supported by the specification and the claims as originally filed. For example, the amendments to claims 1 and 9 are supported by the second paragraph on page 1 of the specification. Claims 2-9 were amended to comply with U.S. patent practice. No new matter is added.


In view of the Applicants' above amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement has been rendered moot. Applicants respectfully submit that the present claims 1-9, directed to a method of preventing or reducing the degenerative effects on cartilaginous matrix, are linked by a general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

As to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicants hereby provisionally elect the compound 2-fluoro- α -methyl[1,1'-biphenyl]-4-acetic acid 4-nitrooxy butylester (II^C) of present claim 7. The Applicants submit that generic claims 1, 3, 4, and 7-9 read on the elected species.

Accordingly, for at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request examination of the pending claims on the merits.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, Applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 026220-00055.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Information Disclosure Statement
Form SB08b
References (2)